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ENCLOSURE

18 May 1964

SUBJECT: Use of the Computer in the Preparation of "South Vietnam:  
Population and Administrative Divisions" by GC/F

1. An urgent need existed for a base map of South Vietnam depicting population, administrative divisions, and major transportation. Population data and the boundaries of 241 second-order administrative units (districts and municipalities) were available but no known area measurements existed. The problem then was to measure these administrative units and calculate the population density.

2. To measure the administrative units, they were first hand-cut from a map at the scale of 1:400,000. The cutouts were taken to the Geography Division of the Bureau of Census, where they were passed through the map area computer. This device then punched onto cards the area measured in square inches.

3. A program was written by the Scientific Branch, Applications Division, Office of Computer Services. The punchcards and program were fed into an IBM 7090 computer along with the population figures. The results were a listing by district of square miles, square kilometers, and population density in both square miles and square kilometers and a second listing arranged in increasing density. The latter was used to derive the six population categories shown on the map. Also obtained from this process were other statistics on percentages and average densities.

4. If the D/GC Flexowriter had been operable at the time, the computer output could have automatically set the type for the table on the map.

5. Copies of the map and brochures on the map area computer can be obtained from [REDACTED] of D/GC and [REDACTED] of D/GC.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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